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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claim 1 for minor formal changes. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 4-15 and the finding that claim 17 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that, as demonstrated below, base claim 1 is also patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also allow claim 17, which depends from claim 1.

The Examiner objected to claim 1 for an apparent informality. Applicants amend claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claims 1-3, 16, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0003914 to Kubo et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kubo et al. is an application by the inventors of the present application, and was not made public until after the present application was filed. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that Kubo et al. is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in that it is not "by another."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 16, and 18-20 are patentable.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

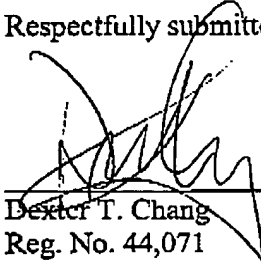
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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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